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June 23, 1966

Dear M. Salandria,

Thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of your projected review of Inquest. The more I think of the book and its line, the less I like both. It was kind of you to avoid the numerous errors of fact that characterize Epstein's writing, but they are not helpful to the ultimate revelation of the truth.

There is but a single importance to Epstein's book, aside from the willingness of a major publisher to print something that is critical of the Commission. This is, as you note, his recording of the statements of those who were aware wrong was being done while they were doing it. This is not at all news, for it is the essence of my introduction and I am confident has been the thought of all those working in the field. But on the record, all Epstein has done is to document my introduction.

Even his use of the FBI reports, which I regard as misuse, but his ignorance of the available testimony and exhibits permitted him no other use, is both wrong and a weakness we shall all now have to content with. Further, most of the information in these reports had already been leaked to the press, so there are something less than a startling revelation in any event.

Sylvia has and has had an exalted opinion of this writing I do not share but out of respect for her and her feelings I do not mention to her. She speaks of a kind word from Epstein as though it were a divine dispensation.

Unfortunately, now that he has a chance to do some direct good with the public appearances that are available because of the attention to his book (or should I say fortunately) Epstein is shunning them. He was invited to appear on the Long John Nebel program with me (and he had nothing to do with initiating the program, nor did Viking) and declined. I am, as a matter of fact, quite happy about this, for I'd have had to spend all my time defending him. Instead, I think to accomplished some positive good.

It is too bad that this young man was less courageous and forthright in handling his material. As he became the creature of those from whom he got his information, so also did he to an unfortunate degree treat it as the Commission so ~~often~~ often did its information. One result is the perpetuation of error and wrong thinking. Yet it is such a milk-toast work that will get the bulk of the initial attention.

If you'd like the return of your carbon, please let me know. I read it in haste and sometime in the future, when I'm less tired, I might reread it.

Sincerely,